IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a plurality of granules having diameters of not more than 1000 μm,

wherein said granules comprise: ~~each of which comprises~~

a nucleus granule ~~containing~~ comprised of beraprost sodium, ~~,~~ and

a coating agent coating said nucleus granule, and

wherein said coating agent is comprised of: ~~agent constituting at least two skin layers including (1)~~

a first skin layer containing one or more ~~a~~ relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substances, and ~~(2)~~

a second skin layer containing one or more ~~a~~ hot-melt low-melting substances. ~~, said nucleus granule being coated with said coating agent.~~

2. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~ of claim 1, wherein said one or more relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substances ~~is~~are ~~at least one~~ selected from the group consisting of water-insoluble alkyl cellulose ether derivatives, water-insoluble acrylic polymer derivatives and water-insoluble vinyl derivatives.

3. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to~~of claim 1 or 2, wherein said hot-melt low-melting substance has a softening point of not higher than 70°C.

4. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one~~ of claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein said one or more hot-melt low-melting substances ~~is~~are ~~at least one~~ selected from the group

consisting of higher alcohols, higher fatty acids, higher fatty acid glycerin esters, waxes and saturated hydrocarbons.

5. (currently amended) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one~~ of claims ~~1 to 4~~, wherein ~~the~~a weight ratio of ~~(1)~~ said first skin layer ~~containing the relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substance~~ to ~~(2)~~ said second skin layer ~~containing the hot-melt low-melting substance is within a~~ ranges ~~between~~from about 1:9 to about ~~and~~ 9:1~~, preferably between 3:7 to 7:3.~~.

6. (currently amended) A process for producing an oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) applying a coating comprised of beraprost sodium to a granule,

b) applying a coating comprised of one of a relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substance to said beraprost sodium coated granule, thereby providing a first skin layer,

c) applying one of a hot-melt low-melting substance to said first skin layer, thereby providing a second skin layer,

d) curing said coated granules to form films, and

e) encapsulating said coated granules in a capsule.

~~a plurality of granules having diameters of not more than 1000 μm, each of which comprises a nucleus granule containing beraprost sodium, and a coating agent constituting at least two skin layers including (1) a skin layer containing a relatively water-insoluble macromolecular substance and (2) a skin layer containing a hot-melt low-melting substance, said nucleus granule being coated with said coating agent.~~

7. (new) The oral sustained release pharmaceutical composition of claim 5, wherein said weight ratio ranges from about 3:7 to about 7:3.